

Session Law 2006-66 (SB 1741) Special Provision Summaries for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

Section 10.26

Title: Area Authority and County Program Crisis Regions

Summary: Directs the use of \$5.25 million non-recurring appropriated to establish a continuum of crisis facilities regionally and crisis services locally. Also directs that \$250,000 non-recurring be spent (of the funds appropriated for consultants to aid the Division and LMEs) for the Department to hire a consultant to assist the LMEs with developing and implementing start-up crisis services. Requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to designate appropriate groupings of LMEs for the development of regional crisis facilities no later than August 15, 2006. Requires the consultant and the Department to report quarterly on the proposed and actual use of these funds.

(S.L. 2006-221, Section 10 amends this section by removing "personal services" from the description of the contracts the Department may enter into for the consultants mentioned above. S.L. 2006-221, Section 11 makes a technical correction to subsection 10.26(d).)

Section 10.27

Title: Extend Sunset for First Commitment Pilot Program

Summary: Extends the sunset of the First Commitment Pilot Program from July 1, 2006 to October 1, 2007.

Section 10.28

Title: Changes to the State Plan for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

Summary: Directs the tasks of the independent consultants hired by the Department from the funds appropriated in this act for this purpose.

Section 10.30

Title: Independent- and Supportive-Living Apartment Initiative

Summary: Directs that the apartments built for the independent- and supportive-living apartments initiative shall be affordable to those with incomes at the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) level. Also gives the Housing Finance Agency the ability to use any extra funds (either from interest earned or from financing the apartments for less than the amount appropriated) to finance additional apartments, group homes, or transitional housing for individuals with disabilities.

Section 10.32

Title: Local Management Entity Administrative Functions

Summary: Directs DHHS to recalculate the LME administrative allocations to include certain functions, including 24/7/365 screening, triage, and referral.

Requires the Secretary to review and revise the LME systems management cost model to provide adequate funds for LMEs to fully implement LME functions. Requires the Department to maintain the 2005-2006 level of funding to LMEs for LME functions with certain exceptions.

Amends G.S. 122C-115 to establish a minimum catchment area size for area authorities and county programs. The catchment area shall contain either a minimum population of 200,000 or a minimum of six counties. Also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reduce by ten percent annually the administrative funding for area authorities and county programs that do not comply with the catchment area requirements of this section.

(S.L. 2006-221, Section 12 makes a technical correction to this section.)

Section 10.33A

Title: Distribution of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Funds

Summary: Directs the allocation of mental health, substance abuse, and crisis services funds so that each LME gets a percentage of the funding that is equal to their percentage of the State's population below poverty.

Section 10.33G

Title: Access to Psychiatric Services

Summary: Directs the activities of the funding appropriated to increase access to psychiatric services. Activities may include covering non-fee-for-service billable functions, graduate medical education incentives, and programs for loan forgiveness.

Section 10.33H

Title: Psychiatric Hospital Debt Service; Funds to Support Positions in Julian Keith ADATC

Summary: Amends the Mental Health Trust Fund statute by deleting the requirement that debt service for the construction of the new Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital be paid from recurring savings due to downsizing. Clarifies that debt service will be paid for from the General Fund beginning July 1, 2007.

Also, allows the Secretary to use funds from the Mental Health Trust Fund for the 2006-07 FY to support up to 66 positions in the Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center.

Section 10.33J

Title: Substance Abuse Services Funds for TASC

Summary: Directs that of the funds appropriated in this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services for substance abuse services, up to \$300,000 shall be allocated to Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC).